

Representative Beltz- Chairman, Representative Hauck- Vice Chairman and members of the Agriculture Committee,

The Walsh County Fair Association would like to express our support for the County Fair Resiliency Grant Bill HB 1591. As a County Fair Association, a few of our objectives include having an annual gathering for our communities to come together and promoting and showcasing agriculture within our counties. Our county residents, surrounding county residents, local businesses and of course our 4-H and FFA youth look forward to the fair year after year.

We along with many other fairs in North Dakota are facing the reality of aging facilities in need of repairs, rebuilds or updating. We have had an engineer take a look at our main fair building that is used for livestock shows, youth activities as well as our static projects. It is in need of at the very least extensive structural repairs and we have been advised that it may be more cost effective to put up a new building. These structural issues will need to be addressed within the next couple years and we are looking at around \$2,000,000.00 worth of work. We are not likely to get any help with funding from our county as they have other projects in the works right now. Having these grant funds available for county fairs would help to keep the tradition of the county fair alive. The Walsh County Fair celebrated 100 years in 2014 so it has been a long standing tradition in Walsh County!

We would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to share with you our support of the County Fair Resiliency Grant Bill HB 1591.

Thank you again,

Walsh County Fair Association